

26 January 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President

VIA : Special Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

1. The Joint Committee on Atomic Energy received a briefing from the Central Intelligence Agency on 19 January 1962 on the latest analysis of the recent Soviet nuclear tests. During this briefing I was asked about the status of U. S. weapons in this field and replied that such information is beyond the competence of CIA. The Joint Committee urged that you receive a similar briefing and, more recently, Senator Henry M. Jackson called me and stated he had talked with you and that you had expressed an interest in such a briefing. Both the Joint Committee and Senator Jackson personally have suggested that the briefing include, in addition to the status of Soviet weapons development, the status of the U. S. weapons and possible developmental improvements.

2. I believe the U. S. situation is a matter of concern of the AEC. Therefore it was proposed that the Commission concurrently supply the information on the U. S. position since the Joint Committee and Senator Jackson feel such comparisons would make the briefing more meaningful for you.

3. Since I am to be away during the forthcoming week, I suggest that this briefing be presented at your convenience by Mr. Robert Amory, Dr. Herbert Scoville, and other members of our staff together with representatives of the AEC and the Department of Defense.

URGENT

John A. McCone
Director

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